

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0317) PROGRAM – 2.1: Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance

Senator Hanson-Young (written) asked:

Family reunion - As of 26 October 2012, how long does the Department estimate that it will take to clear the backlog of family reunion visa applications?

Answer:

Within the family stream, planning levels for the 2012-13 program year, and current pipelines, are as follows:

Category	2012-13 Planning Level	Pipeline at 26/10/2012
Partner	46 325	48663
Child	3450	4197
Other family	1285	7915
Parent	2150	29869
Contributory Parent	6575	13610
Total family stream	59 785	104254

* The total figure of 59 785 places does not take into account the 4 000 places added to the Family Stream as a result of *The Report of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers* that was released on 13 August 2012.

Processing times for applications are affected by annual application rates, planning levels and the complexity of individual applications.

Current processing times for Partner and Child visa applications are around 12 months.

There are specific capping and queuing arrangements that apply to Parent and Other Family visas. Those cases assessed as eligible for grant are queued. Based on current pipelines and planning levels waiting times for Parent and Contributory Parent visas are 15 and two years respectively. Within the Other Family category, waiting times are two years for Carer visas and 15 years for Aged Dependent Relative and Remaining Relative visas.